

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 131521Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3237

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6677

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FPOR, EFIS, UNGA, GE, US, KN,(

SUBJECT: CALL BY AMBASSADOR SIEBER

REF: BERLIN 6564

1. FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10 GDR AMBASSADOR TO THE US ROLF SIEBER CALLED ON ME AT 10 A.M. HE TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN IN THE GDR FOR SEVERAL WEEKS ON VACATION.

2. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION HE SAID THAT HE WAS STILL ENJOYING HIS POST IN WASHINGTON, AS IS HIS WIFE. HE SPOKE OF HIS VISITS WITH CARTER BROWN OF THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY, AND HIS PLEASURE ABOUT THE EXHIBIT OF DRESDEN PAINTINGS IN THE US NEXT YEAR. I AGREED WITH HIM, BUT TOLD HIM THAT THE US WOULD EXPECT THAT SIMILAR US EXHIBITS SHOULD BE SHOWN IN THE GDR. HE AGREED.

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3. I ASKED HIM ABOUT HIS STAFF. HE TOLD ME THAT THEY

LIKED THEIR WORK IN THE US BUT THAT TWO WERE LEAVING BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. HE THEN SAID THAT THE GDR WOULD MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT CHANCERY AND DELAY ACQUIRING A PERMANENT CHANCERY AS RELATIONS PROCEEDED STEP-BY-STEP. HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE GDR HAS ACQUIRED A PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN THE CHEVY CHASE AREA.

4. ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THE GDR WAS PLEASED WITH THE US OFFER TO NEGOTIATE A FISHERIES AGREEMENT.

5. I DID NOT RAISE ANY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS AS I KNOW THE DEPARTMENT TALKS WITH SIEBER AND HIS STAFF. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO SAY TO HIM THAT IN ADDITION TO OTHER PROBLEMS INHIBITING PROGRESS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, OF RECENT US CONCERN WAS THE GDR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE RESOLUTION IN THE UN RESPECTING NORTH KOREA AND THAT THE ACTION OF THE GDR AT THE UNGA AND THE LANGUAGE WHICH IT MIGHT USE IF THE RESOLUTION CAME BEFORE THE UNGA FOR DEBATE WOULD BE CLOSELY WATCHED BY THE US AS AN INDICATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH US/GDR RELATIONS WOULD PROGRESS. I SAID THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE BECAUSE OF THE RECENT INCIDENT AT THE DMZ IN WHICH AMERICANS WERE MURDERED AND WOUNDED. HE PROFESSED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT, SAYING HE HAD BEEN ON VACATION. THIS IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE SINCE I WOULD THINK HE HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON US/GDR ISSUES PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE I RAISED AGAIN THE QUESTION OF THE RESOLUTION ON KOREA AND SAID THAT HE SHOULD REPORT MY STATEMENT TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

6. AMBASSADOR SIEBER WAS FRIENDLY AND PLEASANT THROUGHOUT OUR TALK OF 30 MINUTES, SAYING THAT HE HAD MANY FRIENDS IN THE US CONGRESS AND THAT HE WOULD GIVE THEM MY BEST WISHES ON HIS RETURN. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE FELT HE WAS VERY FORTUNATE TO BE IN THE US DURING THE TIME OF THE ELECTIONS. COOPER

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